

# Reformed Presbyterian Church in San Antonio

*A Mission Church of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America*

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## **RE: Exemption from vaccination on religious and conscientious grounds—David Xxxxxx**

To whom it may concern:

Greetings! As pastor of David Xxxxxx—a Boeing employee—I’ve been asked to provide supporting evidence of David’s sincerity in maintaining religious convictions against participating in an employee vaccination program recently mandated by his company.

Our shared theological stance is rooted in the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries which called men and nations back to the inspired and inerrant Word of God as the only infallible rule for faith and practice. Our Biblical doctrine is summarized in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (adopted by the British Parliament in 1648) and its parallel *Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America* (adopted by the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America in 1980). These documents are available for your perusal at [www.rpcna.org/convictions/ourconstitution](http://www.rpcna.org/convictions/ourconstitution).

David and his family have been attending our congregation for about the past six months, ever since pandemic protocols enforced at his home church made Biblical worship impractical in that place. I’ve come to appreciate David and the sincerity of his family’s Pilgrim-like resolve to go wherever is necessary in order to worship God unencumbered by the devices of men.

Because the issue at hand is not one of long standing but still emergent, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America hasn’t yet adopted a denominational stance on vaccinations universally mandated either by civil<sup>1</sup> or commercial authority. However, our practice in these matters is guided by long-established religious principles articulated in our denominational standards:

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<sup>1</sup> Any such mandate by the *federal* government, however, is clearly unlawful under the Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution.

*“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in any thing contrary to His Word; or beside it, if matters of faith or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also” (Westminster Confession of Faith 20.2).*

*“Conscience is a sense of right and wrong by which one evaluates his own thoughts and behavior . . . . The Christian’s conscience is to be directed by God’s revealed law, under the illumination of the Holy Spirit, with due attention to the teaching and admonition of the brethren. Although conscience is not infallible, a person should not do what he believes to be wrong” (RPCNA Testimony 20.4).*

David very plainly “should not do what he believes to be wrong.” He recognizes and eschews the extremity of the wrong involved in the provenance of these vaccines. Inasmuch as these vaccines were developed and tested using cells obtained by the elective abortion of human children, David’s objection to participation in the vaccine is firm and well-grounded. Many in this and other like-minded churches, in fact, share his convictions on the matter entirely. Our Reformed Presbyterian *Testimony* states:

*“Unborn children are living creatures in the image of God. From the moment of conception to birth they are objects of God’s providence as they are being prepared by Him for the responsibilities and privileges of postnatal life. Unborn children are to be treated as human persons in all decisions and actions involving them. Deliberately induced abortion, except possibly to save the mother’s life, is murder” (RPCNA Testimony 24.19).*

**David must not be required to submit himself, against his will, to any vaccine whose research, development, and production exploited human tissues without the tissue donor’s consent.**

Please contact me if you have questions. I may be reached at (210) 347-5116 (cell) or by email at [sanantoniorpc@gmail.com](mailto:sanantoniorpc@gmail.com). Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Jonathan B. Leach*

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